

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1030

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2007

VIOLATION OF NORMS BY PRIVATE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES

Agarwal Shri Dharendra;Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh;Kumar Shri Shailendra;Patel Shri Jivabhai Ambalal;Rana Shri Kashi Ram;Renge Patil Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao;Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that due to the faulty implementation of the Electricity Act which was framed to make reforms in the power sector, the private electricity distribution companies are using it in such a way as per their wishes and there is no control over it;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have made any survey or assessment in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government have discussed with the State Governments regarding this anti- people act of the private electricity distribution companies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) to (e) : Electricity is a concurrent subject. Distribution comes within the purview of the States. Accordingly, the Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) are regulated by the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003. The Act provides that every distribution licensee shall establish a forum for redressal of grievances of the consumers in accordance with the guideline as may be specified by the SERC. The Act further provides that the SERC shall appoint an Ombudsman who shall settle the grievance of a consumer who is aggrieved by non-redressal of his grievances by the forum.

In addition, the Act has provisions for imposition of penalty by the Electricity Regulatory Commission on a person (which includes a company or body corporate) for contravening any of the provisions of the Act or rules or regulations made thereunder or any direction issued by the Appropriate Electricity Regulatory Commission.

In terms of section 146 of Electricity Act, 2003, any person including the DISCOMs is liable to be prosecuted against for non-compliance with any order or direction given under the Act or for contravention or attempting or abetting the contravention of any other provisions of the Act or of any Rules or Regulations made thereunder.